| Report Documentation Page | | Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188 |
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| maintaining the data needed, and completing and revi including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Wa | ion is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden ishington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations an otwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a per. | estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington |
| 1. REPORT DATE 10 MAY 2007 | 2. REPORT TYPE Technical, Success Story | 3. DATES COVERED 03-07-2006 to 10-05-2007 |
| 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Paperless Machining - PIF | | 5a. CONTRACT NUMBER |
| | | 5b. GRANT NUMBER |
| | | 5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER |
| 6. AUTHOR(S) | | 5d. PROJECT NUMBER 06-0097-06 |
| | | 5e. TASK NUMBER |
| | | 5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) National Center for Defense Manufacturing & Machining,1600 Technology Way,Latrobe,PA,15650 | | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER |
| 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) | | 10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) |
| | | 11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) |
| 12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STA Approved for public release; | | |
| 13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES | | |
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| 15. SUBJECT TERMS Aviation and Missiles Resear | ch, Development and Engineering Center | r; AMRDEC; Prototype Integration |

17. LIMITATION OF

ABSTRACT

1

18. NUMBER

OF PAGES

1

Facility; PIF; Redstone Arsenal; Aviation and Missile Command; Success Stories

c. THIS PAGE

unclassified

b. ABSTRACT

unclassified

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:

a. REPORT

unclassified

19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON



Paperless Machining - PIF

NCDMM Project No. 06-0097-06



PROBLEM / OBJECTIVE

The Aviation and Missiles Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) Prototype Integration Facility (PIF) at Redstone Arsenal, AL is designated the prototype development facility to meet the quick turnaround requirements for Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM). The PIF requested the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining (NCDMM) to review the current processing of the IR Beacon Strobe. The main objective was to implement a new paperless machining process. Paperless machining is a term used to describe the use of the digital 3-D CAD models transferred to Computer Aided Machining (CAM) to manufacture the component. The 4.50" dia., 1.125"-thick Beacon Ring, made of 7075-T6 Aluminum Rod, requires machining from many sides. The current process in use by the PIF required 4 setups and two machines.



5-axis machine procured by NCDMM from Alliance Partner Haas Automation, Inc.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS / PAYOFF

Process Improvement

The NCDMM utilized their trademarked JUMPEDsm process to develop the solution for the PIF. The machine tool chosen (and purchased) was a Haas 5-axis Trunnion machine with cutting tools from alliance partner Kennametal Inc. featuring advanced JUMPEDsm coatings and geometries. The methodology using the 5-axis machine resulted in an immediate process improvement. The use of the 5axis machine enabled the IR Strobe to be completed in 2 setups. In addition, the new fixturing configurations produced strong gripping power without distorting the part. The fixtures were



Actual IR Beacon Ring

designed to use minimal clamping, thus reducing time spent handling and relocating the part.

Implementation and Technology Transfer

The implementation of the paperless machining, 5-axis high-speed machine, tooling and fixturing improvements have enabled the PIF to reduce overall machining costs. The machining time for the IR Beacon Ring has been reduced from 3 hours to 50 minutes, a reduction in cycle time of more than three times.

Expected Benefits

In summary, implementation produced:

- Implementation of Paperless Machining
- The use of high-speed machining techniques
- Improved confidence in the integrity of the work holding system, permitting the component to be machined in two setups and one machine
- Reduction per part of \$30 resulting in an estimated cost savings/avoidance of \$30K for an estimated 1,000 piece run

TIME LINE / MILESTONE

Start Date.....July 06
End Date.....May 07

PROJECT FUNDING

NCDMM funding \$323K

PARTICIPANTS

Prototype Integration Facility / AMRDEC CNC Software, Inc. (Mastercam) COM1 Information Technologies, Inc. (Predator) Haas Automation, Inc. Kennametal Inc. NCDMM